Rocket firing by Pakistan troops

512. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rocket firing was resorted to by Pakistani troops across the line of Actual Control recently;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to counter the same; and

(c) how many people lost their lives in this incident and the measures taken by Government to avoid the recurrence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFECNE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):

(a) Indian posts along the Line of Control in Poonch and Nowshera Sectors were subjected to rocket fire from the Pak vide during January, 1994.

(b) Firing across the Line of Control is a regular occurence and is appropriately responded to by our troops.

(c) There were no casualties in these firings on the Indian side.

Use of defence Aircraft by VIPs

513. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Ministers of Union Government and VIPs have used Indian Airforce Aircrafts and Helicopters during the recent State Elections; and

(b) if so, the number and names of Ministers and VIPs who visited State Elections through Defence Aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Prime Minister is specifically authorised to use I.A.F. aircraft for non-official journeys including for elections on payment of usual rates. Central Ministers and Chief Ministers are authorised to use I.A.F. aircraft on prior approval of the competent authority for official purposes.

(b) Names of Central Ministers/Chief Ministers, besides the Prime Minister, who used I.A.F. aircraft to travel to states for official work after issuance of the Election Notification for these States and till completion of poll are as below:

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao Prime Minister

Shri P.M. Sayeed Minister of State (Home)

Shri Lalthanhwala Chief Minister, Mizoram

Shri G Apang Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh

Shri H. Saikia Chief Minster, Assam

The Central Ministers/Chief Ministers have specifically stated that the use of the I.A.F. aircraft in these areas were only for official purposes and with prior approval of the competent authorities.

Exodus of armed forces officers

514. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an increasing number of Army, Navy and Air Force Officers are leaving their jobs to join the corporate sector or to start on their own;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; rank-wise, during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have gone into the. reasons of this exodus; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to stem this exodus of defence officers; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e) There has been no significant increase in the number of officers opting for premature retirement over the last 3 years from the Armed Forces. In fact, considering the authorised strength of the. Forces, these numbers are a small fraction. A tabular statement giving the details is enclosed *(see* below) Existing rules provide for premature retirement from the service under certain conditions such as supersession for promotion, compassionate reasons of a personal nature etc. Requests for premature retirement are duly

examined on their individual merits subject to the exigencies of service.

In the 1980s, two cadre reviews were undertaken to increase promotion avenues for officers within a pyramidical structure of the Forces. With the acceptance of the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission a concept of running pay scales for the posts of Second Lieutenant of the Army and equivalent upto and including the rank of Brigadier and equivalent has also been introduced. These measures have substantially improved the career prospects and emolument packages of the Armed Forces officers.

Statement

Premature Retirement of Service Officers—No. of Cases Approved Army Officers (except Armed Forces Medical Services)

Year	Lt.Gen	Maj. Gen.	Brig	Con Lt Cols	Major	Capt	Lts.	Total
1991	2*	2	21	87	181	89	23	_	405
1992	-	3@	26	124	287	130	31	1	602
1993	-	1	33	106	284	129	39	1	593

* including 1 who had applied in 1990 @

including 1 who had applied in 1991

NAVY

	VAdm/RAdm	Commodore/ Cdt	Cdr	Lt Cdr & below	Total
1991	1	20	63	25	109
1992	1	28,	•71	61	161
1993	2	23	107	41	173

AIR FORCE

	Air Commodore & above	GP Capts & below	Total
1991	7	155	162
1992	3	157	160
1993	10	177	187

Deferring the third test flight of Agni

515. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the third test flight of IRBM—"Agni" was indefinitely deferred on the 7th January, 1994, following a technical snag in one of the on-board systems at the last minute of the scheduled launch;

(b) if so, the details of the snag; and

(c) the steps taken to eliminate such snags in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Third test flight of technology demonstrator AGNI re- entry test vehicle was deferred for a later date due to technical snag.

(b) During the Count-Down phase before the launch, the computer indicated a technical snag in the Booster Thrust Vector Control System.

(c) Computerised count down is introduced to eliminate the possibility of mislaunch. Cause